

John: Jesus is the Christ # 50
(Preparing for Parting # 6)

John 14¹⁻¹⁴

The way, the one, the works

Jesus's antidote to worry



(Double trouble - Treble trouble)

Let not your hearts be troubled

- particularly appropriate words for us in our troubled times w global pandemic;
- 2 sermons today on worry – different aspect – come again this evening;
- this am: Jesus: **Let not your hearts be troubled**
- anyone can say that – but does it actually alleviate our worry?

To find out – let's enter into where Jesus's disciples were at:

No wonder Jesus's disciples were troubled;

- Jesus has just told them that **Peter will deny** him 3x;
- they'd all been just as confident as Peter about standing firm;
- no doubt now full of self-doubt;
- they already feeling confused re everything happening/ Jesus going – trouble;
- now worried : their confidence was self-confidence – **double trouble**.

Jesus says: **Let not your hearts be troubled.**

Believe in God; believe also in Me.

- or Continue to believe in God; continue to believe also in Me
- Jesus knows: their faith is **about to be even more sorely tried**;
- perhaps it's like our situation – going to get worse before gets better;
- Jesus is about to be humiliated / shamed / crucified before their v eyes;
- He about to be mocked – give no answer to mockers;
- He about to be defeated (rather appear to their eyes to be defeated);
- if feeling double trouble – about to be treble trouble / quadruple / quintuple trouble.

Let not your hearts be troubled.

Continue to believe in God; continue to believe also in Me

Not sort of **pious platitudes**:

- which abound on secular sympathy cards / non-Christian funerals;
- mere wishful thinking – w/o any basis in objective incontrovertible truth.

Jesus follows it up w **sound** / **solid substance**:

- **3 reasons** why they need not worry – but can be truly confident / content / courageous;
- the Way / the One / the Works – come to soon.

(2) In My Father's house are **many rooms**.

If it were not so, Would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?

(3) And if I go and prepare a place for you,

I will come again and will take you to Myself,
that where I am you may be also.

(The way)

(Jesus is not building you an apartment)

As you children already seen in **children's talk**:

- ∃ many misguided notions that people taken away from this;
- some have thought : Jesus is building / preparing rooms for His disciples;
 - like hotel rooms or studio apartments for His disciples;
 - like amazing hospital building project in Wuhan 1000 beds in 10 days;
 - KJV has **In my Father's house are many mansions**
 - could be each one has mansion in heaven;

But I think each of these misses the point:

- word translated **room** / **mansion** = **dwelling place**;
- a place where we will dwell – will belong – will call home;
- emphasis is similar to our difference between house / home;
- not the building - but the belonging;

Jesus's emphasis in tending to troubled hearts is on belonging not a building.

Jesus's emphasis in tending to troubled hearts is also on **many rooms**;

- lots of rooms / lots of room – room for all of them – and lots more;
 - in fact room for **great multitude which no man can number**;
- if it were not so – He would not have been so indiscriminate in calling:
 - **everyone who is weary & heavy-laden to come to Him**;
 - ∃ room for any / every / all who will come – room for you.

Look carefully at words Jesus uses:

I go to prepare a place for you.

And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to ...

- we'd expect Him to say I will take you to that **place**;
- but NO – He says I will take you to **Myself** - that where I am you may be also.
- the place = Jesus;
 - the destination is not a bedroom / studio apartment / mansion;
 - the dwelling place is IN Jesus;
- just as He as Emmanuel has come to dwell w them / in them;
 - they will come to dwell w Him / in Him.

(4) And you know the way to where I am going."

(5) Thomas said to him,

"Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?"

2 more misconceptions we need to put to bed:

Jesus is not showing the way

Every other religion in world – involves someone special showing you the way:

- Buddha showing you path to enlightenment;
- Mohammed showing you 5 pillars of Islam;
- Jesus Christ is unique in declaring I am the way.

This is the difference between a **mediator** & a **facilitator**;

- if your marriage breaks down – or you have a serious falling out w someone:
 - you may need a facilitator / mediator to help get you reconciled again;
 - a facilitator helps you work it out yourself;
 - a Mediator comes between you – bridge brings you together.

We might often pray for Jesus to help us – but Jesus is not a facilitator;

Jesus is the Mediator between God & Man – fully God / fully man;

- one w God / one w us;
- the Way the only way of reconciling God to man – man to God.

Now here's another misconception to put to bed:

- people often think: Jesus leads the way, but ...

Jesus is not leading the way

You might think - What do you mean Jesus not leading the way? of course He leads the way!

- NO – the **way is thru the cross** / crucifixion;
 - His way – not our way;
 - but you might say: Paul says I am crucified w Christ ...
 - yes, but NOT I am crucified in same way as Christ was crucified
 - He was laying down His life as an atoning sacrifice of our sins;
 - He was dying as substitute in our place;
 - we cannot do that;
- Jesus is not leading us in the way – He IS the way;
- His substitutionary / atoning sacrifice for our sin IS The way.

This was the **1st big truth** : Jesus gives His disciples to ground their troubled hearts in Him:

- Jesus is the way;

2nd big truth ...

The one

There is only one way

No one comes to the Father except thru Me

This is a highly **offensive** statement in our current climate:

- prevailing pluralist view: \exists many ways;
- if you say \exists only I way to God: Jesus \Rightarrow you regarded as arrogant to the extreme;
 - you believe this \Rightarrow you will be labelled a bigot;
 - when someone calls you a bigot \Rightarrow you'll be tempted to deny it;
 - \Rightarrow tempted to deny Jesus as the one exclusive way.

Likewise for saying:

There is only one truth

People used to say to us: *you can have **your truth** – just let me have **my truth**;*

- *I'm glad for you that you find comfort in that - I find comfort in this;*
- they tend not to say that anymore;
- now they say to us : *What you call truth is intolerance / pride / arrogance;*
 - *what you call truth is dangerous;*
 - *what you call truth must be shut down;*
- *quite legitimate for us to shout it down because not belong in civilised society;*
- not wanted / not welcome / wicked.

Jesus is **not ashamed** to be rejected / offscouring of self-righteous society;

- **I am the way, I am the truth, I am the life;**
- He has more to say.

(There is only one God)

- (7) If you had known **Me**, you would have known **My Father** also.
From now on you do know Him and have seen Him."
- (8) Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us."
- (9) Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know Me, Philip?
Whoever has seen Me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"
- (10) Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me?

Jesus is saying: ***I and the Father are one***;

- NOT just one in purpose / one in mission / one in conviction;
- but one in identity – you see one – you see the other;
- **If you've seen Me – you seen the Father;**
- ∃ mutual indwelling – Father in Son / Son in Father;
- one in essence – ∃ **only one God**.

I think probably most of us **know this** / got this;

- we enjoy fruit of disciples wrestling w this – working it out – we rest in this.

But ∃ something else I think is well worth our while noticing here in text;

- that's way in which Jesus goes about **comforting their hearts**;
- on one hand: you believe – continue believing;
- but on other hand: He actually remonstrating w them;
- reproving them for not believing what they could / should have got;
- **"Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know Me, Philip?**
- ∃ reproof – but tender reproof of a shepherd / pastor's heart for His people;
- inviting / drawing Philip into something more / better / deeper than before;
- way to establish hearts in troubled times:
- lead / draw into deeper truth.

3rd big truth which will stand them in good stead for trials to come:

The works

Key word in (10-12):

(10) The Father who dwells in me does **His works**.

(11) Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me,
or else believe on account of the works themselves.

(12) "Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in Me will also do the works that I do;
and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father.

Exciting conclusion to where Jesus is taking His disciples:

- prospect of doing great works – greater works even than Jesus;
- perhaps bit confronting for us – verge on blasphemous – **What that mean?**
- we need to carefully work our way thru Jesus' argument – thread of works.

Start w **Father's** works – then **Son's** works then **our** works – all connected.

Father's works ...

(10) The Father who dwells in me does His works.

Son's works ...

(11) Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me,
or else believe on account of the works themselves.

- you see Me doing the works that only the Father can do;
- works like telling a paralysed man: your sins are forgiven;
- proving it by telling him to take up his bed & walk;
- these works prove that I and the Father are one.

Believe on account of the works

Works which engender faith

Reason why Jesus did miraculous signs / wonders,

- was not primarily compassion – of course He did have compassion;
- but even more important;
- engender faith / belief - belief in what Jesus can do;
- but more than that - belief in who He is.

Works which testify to who Jesus is

Primary purpose of signs / wonders / miraculous works:

- testify to who Jesus is;
- authenticate Jesus as One He claimed to be - one w Father / God / the way/ truth;
- He turned water into wine ⇒ show He had power of God in creation;
- He calmed tempest-tossed sea ⇒ show He had power of God to calm troubled soul;
- He healed sick ⇒ show He has power of God to heal sin-sickness of soul;
- He raised dead ⇒ demonstrate He had power of God to forgive sins;
- all miraculous signs / wonders were signposts to far deeper spiritual reality.

= **Key** to understanding how works His followers are enabled to do can be even greater;

(Works which are greater than Jesus's works)

About month ago I went to public meeting of **world-renowned signs & wonders preacher**;

- I not go to criticise – I went to learn;

- when I arrived \exists good crowd there already – all seats taken – standing at back;
 - fine – better view;
- but then ushers said we not allowed to stand – ushered into **overflow room**;
 - like we have today in hall;
 - must admit I disappointed – felt like **B class** seats - not get atmosphere so much;
 - God is amazing – it seems I was exactly where God wanted me to be;
 - see why in moment.

Speaker said some really **good stuff** – I quote here from his own book:

- one of His favourite verses:

“**And greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father.**

God has invested His power, His name, His blood and His Spirit
to enable & empower you to so the works of Jesus.

I’m telling you, we’re living in the day & age

where we will see some of the greater works.

When the Church realises this, they will shake nations for Jesus!

- great stuff – spot on!

But then goes on in book / and on stage before me:

- giving stories of amazing healings - people falling over drunk in the Spirit;
 - then all of sudden - **lady** just in front of me **fell** - started wailing;
 - leaders rushed in to lay hands on her / pray for her healing;
 - then they realised she not responding like they wanted her to;
 - realised out of their league – this is real medical emergency;
 - we were quietly ushered back into stand at back of main auditorium;
 - ambulance was quietly called – women taken to hospital;
 - message was relayed to lead pastor;
 - but no mention was made of v real medical emergency happening in midst:
 - conveniently out the back – where no one see;
 - no public prayer for her;
 - all while speaker continued telling his stores about doing works of Jesus
 - greater works than Jesus;
 - I’m thinking \exists something not adding up;
- \Rightarrow maybe he not have Jesus’s intended interpretation of greater works we will do.

What does Jesus mean? – His people **will do greater works than He did**,

- I think key is in reason Jesus tells them:

- **do greater works than these - because I am going to the Father;**

- \exists fundamentally new realm:

- move from pre-cross \Rightarrow post-cross / post-Pentecost;
- move from disciples being confused \Rightarrow disciples being more than conquerors;
- move from foreshadowing redemption \Rightarrow accomplished redemption;
- move from signs / shadows \Rightarrow glory of gospel triumph.

What does that mean?

- Jesus raised few from dead ⇒ maybe His people will raise great multitudes from dead;
- Is this what we see?
- Do we see signs & wonders preachers raising 100s/1000s dying of coronavirus?
 - preacher I mentioned is on record as going to save Florida from Coronavirus
 - but (so far as I know) he hasn't yet raised even 1 from dead.

What do we see?

- 1 thing we see:
- in **Bangladesh** we see 128 churches planted last year – more than 2/week;
- I was in WPC Missions Comm meeting on Thurs night:
 - Mark B telling about how 26 of these want WPC to teach them;
 - not after money - after Biblical teaching.

Could these be greater things we see?

- **not signpost sort** of miracles that point forward to spiritual miracles;
- but spiritual miracles themselves;
 - millions of men / women / children being born again;
 - new creation in JC;
 - church of Christ expanding / pushing back gates of hell;

Could these be the greater works than what happened in Jesus' day;

- not that Jesus could not do it;
- but time was not right – pre-cross – but now is the time;
 - now is global expansion of miracle of regeneration;
 - far greater than small band of disciples in Jesus's time.

You have **privilege of being part** of this movement;

- God is building / expanding His church thru you – everyone like you in world.

See how Jesus **encouraging** His **downcast / discouraged disciples** on eve of their despair:

- He is the Way;
- He is the One;
- His works lead directly into phenomenal work in every age – our age.

(Conclusion)

(Double privilege – Double promise)

Then Jesus closes this section w **privilege & promise of prayer**;

(13) Whatever you ask in My name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

(14) If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do it.

- **double privilege – double promise**;
- Jesus says it twice - wrap this up – make sure we get how good it is.

He's leaving His disciples – He **wants them to pray**;

- He wants them bold in prayer;
- He wants them asking for big / bold things in His name.

Is He thinking of them asking for power to do signs / wonders / heal sick / raise dead?

- I doubt it;

Is He thinking of them asking for strength to stand firm in faith

/ added to / multiplied / exponential growth;

- world-wide kingdom of God more & more manifest

- until Jesus comes;

- yes - I think this is what He has in mind;

- whatever we ask for that is shaped by promises of His word ⇒ He will do it.

⇒ Let's be praying more & more of these big kingdom kind of prayers;

⇒ Let's be praying together.

Pray

Sing Thou art the way [TH 154]

All I have is Christ

Benediction – 2 Cor 13(14)